

Confidential

TO []
FROM : Mario K. Giordano
DATE DELIVERED: 24 May, 1955
SUBJECT: FORWARDING A LETTER.

Sir,

I kindly request your co-operation in forwarding the enclosed envelope, through official channels, to the Director of the Agency.

The envelope contains a proposal concerning collection of information from the Countries behind the Iron Curtain.

I enclosed the proposal in an envelope in order to have the Director or his Deputy make the decision to whom it should be given for further consideration.

Mario K. Giordano.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

Transmitted to SR/PP (C) 0
Wednesday, 1 June, 1955

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TO : The Director of the Agency (TWO Copies)

FROM : Mario K.Giordano

DATE SUBMITTED: 24 May, 1955

SUBJECT: ONE WAY TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE MATERIALS FROM BEHIND
THE IRON CURTAIN.

1. So long there still are people longing for freedom behind the Iron Curtain, there will be thousands of courageous men and women among them ready to inform the Free World of the real proceedings at their living places and about other items interesting the Leadership here, provided that usable means will be supplied for sending the information over the Curtain.

2. The following WAY could be used, if not yet done:

A / Send together with the millions of leaflets carried by balloons over the Iron Curtain thousands or tens of thousands of RETURN-BALLOONS, packed together with chemicals necessary to make these balloons volatile and able to carry light bundles of information materials.

Add to the packages short instructions concerning:

- a) Manipulation of a Return-Balloon so this will be able to fly, carried by favorable winds, far enough for being collected by us or by the people friendly to us.
- b) What kind of information could be sent or is specially wanted.
- c) How such information could be collected on spot / ted. in a way safest for the persons involved.
- d) Which basic precautions the special helpers shall take for their own safety for the case that a return-balloon would fall into enemy hands, together with the information.

B / Organize the COLLECTION of the to be expected arriving Return-Balloons, in countries neighboring the Iron Curtain.

This last job will require a rather big mass-organization in case that but simple wind-carried return-balloons will be used. It could be done by the members of different voluntary

/ Mario K. Giordano, 24 May, 1955 /

"Organizations for Freedom", organized (or to be organized additionally) by the refugees from the countries involved, or/and by the help of the Policy Forces of the friendly countries this side the Curtain.

In case that the Return-Balloons can be fitted out with some kind of distant-controlled propulsion and guiding means or devices, then the collection could be done by a few appropriately equipped Collecting Centers of our own, not too far from the Iron Curtain. Such specially equipped return-balloons would be started by help of favorable winds like simple return-balloons. Their special apparatus, which will later have to respond to the radio-signals of our Collecting Center, would be put in action automatically, after a period of time necessary for the balloon to be carried by the winds out of the enemy-controlled area (and out of the zone of effective influence of the possible jamming or interception stations of the enemy) into the area where the radiation-field of our own guiding station will be strong enough to control the remaining flight of the balloon by the intermediary of the tiny receiver-relays on the balloon.

3. Knowing the immense difficulties and costs involved in work with the sent-in agents, and the rather often failures of the missions, it looks to be worth-while to try this way. Although the enemy will collect most of our return-balloons unused, and some after these will be on their way with valuable loads, the percentage of possible positive results could be higher than that of the sent-in agents. Besides, such an activity would strengthen the hope of the suffering people behind the Curtain, that they really will be helped to free themselves.

Mario K. Giordano